

EAST BERLIN AREA JOINT AUTHORITY
103 LOCUST STREET / PO BOX 37
EAST BERLIN, PA 17316

March 2, 2023

The monthly meeting of the East Berlin Area Joint Authority Board was held March 2, 2023 at 103 Locust St., East Berlin, PA. The meeting was presided over by Chairman Krall. Chairman Krall opened the meeting at 7pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Members Present: C. Krall, R. Weidner, W. Staub, R. Teal

Members Absent: G. Green

Also Present: Solicitor Battersby, Diana Young, Harold Lau, Melissa Earp, Nathan Boyer, John Scrivens,

Guests:

Agenda: A motion was made by R. Teal to accept the agenda for March 2, 2023 board meeting as written, with a second by W. Staub. **Motion carried to accept the agenda as written.**

Minutes: A motion was made by W. Staub to accept the minutes of February 2, 2023 as written, with a second by R. Weidner. **Motion carried to accept the minutes as written.**

Payment of Bills: All members received a list of payables for February 2023, totaling **\$56,302.07** from the Operational funds and payment of **\$35,414.00** for the final water tower improvement project payment from the Capital funds. A motion was made by R. Teal to pay the February 2023 bills with a second from R. Weidner. **Motion carried.**

Public / Guest Comment: None

Engineer's Report:

- Completed and presented copies of the Chapter 94 (Municipal Waste-load Management) Report for signature.
- Provided assistance in completing the Well No. 6 renewal application.
- Is open to any questions or comments regarding the WWTP Expansion study.
- Is planning to upload the completed Chapter 94 Report to PADEP.
- Annual Water Report should be finished sometime in the next week.

Solicitor's Report:

- Advised via email from the state, regarding the grant application for the water/sewer system Rte 194 expansion, to choose between water and sewer for the grant request. Conversation ensued as to whether a water or sewer line would be more beneficial. R. Weidner indicated the lack of interest in potential development in that corridor, the limited number of existing properties that could potentially be connected, and zoning restrictions. He suggested the money would have been better spent on repairing the existing failing infrastructure, as N. Boyer has suggested several times. R. Teal made a motion to expand the sewer line out Rte. 194 rather than a water line. W. Staub seconded the motion. Motion carried. The engineer was instructed to provide an updated cost estimate for just the sewer expansion to the solicitor in order to amend the matching funds grant application.
- Reviewed the contract agreement with Constellation Energy, an approved supplier with the Pennsylvania Utility Commission, but feels there was too much left unexplained to advise signing the five year fixed rate (.689 thm). The board decided to remain with the variable Columbia Gas rate.

Treasurer's Report:

- Open Balance: \$26,178.01

Secretary's Report:

- submitted the completed Susquehanna River Basin Commission Groundwater Removal Renewal Application. The cost: \$7,092.00.
- Received notice from Hamilton Township that they have officially appointed R. Weidner to a five year term as their representative on the East Berlin Area Joint Authority board.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Operator's Report:

- Leak Detection Company found five (5) leaks:
 1. Leaking Hydrant Water / North Ave (repaired)
 2. Service Line at 120 West King St. (repaired)
 3. Service line at 324 Locust St. (letter sent to homeowner) Nathan indicated a plumber has been called to assess the situation.
 4. Old Tyco building sprinkler line and hose bib leaking (repaired)
 5. Leaking hydrant on Jacobs St. (will be replaced soon).
 - DEP Water System inspection went well; no violations, just minor items that need to be fixed. One thing that will need to be addressed is the CL17's will either need to be monitored continuously while running, or apply for a permit to only use handheld chlorine meters. Further discussion on a permit for handheld chlorine meters was tabled for the time being.
 - Digester #1 was drained by Kline's (sludge removal).
 - Budgeted Item:
 - Replace the wall and Ceiling at Well #1
 - WY Electric: \$5680.00
 - Hull Enterprises / DM Hartman Electrical: \$5650.00
- R. Weidner* made a motion to accept Hull Enterprises / DM Hartman Electrical with a second from *R. Teal*. All in favor. Motion carried. Nathan will move the project forward.

Correspondence: The secretary received a letter from an out of state individual expressing unnecessary concerns. Chairman Krall read the letter and the following responses:

Concern One: The latest board member was approved incorrectly.

Response: False. The most recent member was appointed in accordance with Section 5610 D of the municipalities

Authorities Act: *If a vacancy shall occur by reason of resignation, the municipal authorities shall appoint a successor to fill his unexpired term.*

Concern Two: EBAJA failed to follow Pennvest requirements.

Response: EBAJA is no longer indebted to Pennvest or bound to any of their requirements.

Concern Three: N/A to the authority.

Concern Four: The individual claimed the recent new Tapping Fee was not discussed.

Response: False. In the future the secretary will try to be more thorough in recording the thought process / conversations that ensue during decision making.

Concern Five: The individual claimed the figure 243,000gpd used in the calculation for the new tapping fee is discredited.

Response: False. The number comes directly from the DEP and the NPDES permit which is issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The figure is non-arbitrary.

Concern Six: Pointed out the minutes do not indicate why executive sessions are called.

Response: In the future, the secretary will be more thorough in explaining why an Executive session is needed (the most recent for personnel and budget concerns).

No direct response to the individual is deemed necessary.

Executive Session: n/a

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by R. Weidner and seconded by W. Staub. **Motion carried.** Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Krall at 7:50 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held **April 7, 2023** at 103 Locust Street at 7:00 pm.